

**WE CLAIM:**

1. A screening assembly framework which includes:  
a plurality of support members, each of which supports at least one securing element by which a screening module is secured to the support member; and  
a plurality of spacer members arranged intermediate the support members for retaining the support members at a predetermined distance relative to one another, at least certain of the support members and at least certain of the spacer members being demountably connected to one another to form a demountable underlying structure for an array of screening modules of the screening assembly.
2. The framework of claim 1 in which at least certain of the support members carry at least one receiving formation for receiving a complementarily-shaped end of one of the spacer members.
3. The framework of claim 2 in which each receiving formation comprises a boss extending from a side of the support member, the boss defining a slot in which said end of the spacer member is received, the slot and the end having complementary retaining formation for retaining the end of the spacer member in the slot.
4. The framework of claim 1 in which each securing element comprises a receiving rail running along a top surface of the support member.
5. The framework of claim 1 in which at least certain of the support members carry mounting formations for removable mounting to a screen deck on which the screening assembly is to be installed.
6. The framework of claim 1 in which each support member and each spacer member is of a synthetic plastics material to facilitate releasable engagement between the support members and the spacer members.

7. The framework of claim 1 which is modular and comprises a plurality of sub-frames, each sub-frame including at least one support member and at least one spacer member extending transversely to its associated at least one support member.